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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 39 Berkeley, California, August, 1957 Number 8

JUNE TRIP TO SACRAMENTO AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Three cars containing a total of eleven members and guests (two from Larkspur, five from the East Bay, and four from Sacramento) spent an interesting morning exploring the lowland ditches and canals north of Sacramento. Blue Grosbeaks, singing, flying and perching, were competing with the Lazuli Buntings for first honors in the fashion show. A Townsend's Warbler (unexpected at this time of the year) also put in an appearance. The following 56 species were identified by sight or sound: Pied-billed Grebe, Green Heron, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western (incl. Arkansas) Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Crow, Plain Titmouse, Common Bush-Tit, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, American Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided (Spotted) Towhee, Brown Towhee, Song Sparrow.

—Earl Albertson, *Leader*

—Lee Stallcup, *Historian*

SPECIAL NOTICE

The EBMUD Citizens' Committee urges Audubon Society members to write to the Board of Directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, 2130 Adeline Street, Oakland 7, protesting the proposed sale of 6,500 acres of publicly owned land around San Pablo Reservoir which should be preserved for recreational and park use.

PICNIC MEETING AT LIVE OAK PARK

A beautiful summer evening brought out more than 50 members for a picnic in Live Oak Park on July 11. After supper in the glade, with fireplace offering cooking facilities for those who had brought their wieners and steaks, the first part of the program was held among the trees with background songs of Russet-backed Thrush and spotted Towhee. A number of members who had been traveling out of state gave colorful reports of birds they had seen far afield. Minnie Young teed off with an animated account of bird-life observed in Washington, D.C., Virginia, and New Orleans. At Daytona Beach she found the Red-bellied Woodpecker and Ground Dove; in Williamsburg, the Little Blue Heron and Eastern Kingbird; in Rock Creek Park (Washington) she observed the nesting habits of the Black-crowned Heron, as well as a Swallow which had made a home in a drain on the side of a building. All through the South she was delighted with the brilliant beauty of the Cardinal.

A. L. Curl was enthusiastic over Hawaiian bird-life. The Myna was very abundant and the Brazilian Cardinal and Skylark particularly thrilling. The native land birds, he reported, are less profuse than formerly and are found only in native forests. The Hawaiian Lark he found on only one island. A Short-eared Owl was observed on a cliff, while Golden Plovers enjoyed the golf course. Sanderlings and Coots were among the water birds he saw. He came home with a list of 44 birds.

Arthur Bennett reported seeing in Mexico the amazing number of 270 species in ten days, 120 of which he had never seen before. The Toucan was the queerest looking, with his banana-shaped bill. Other new acquaintances for him were three varieties of Kingfisher (Little Green, Amazon, and Ringed), four varieties of Trogons, the Mot-Mot and the Rose-throated Becard.

Bert Harwell concluded this part of the program with some of his famous bird-calls, urging the group to join him in sounds of Owl and Wren-tit, to call forth voices of the people-watchers in the trees around us.

At sundown we adjourned to the recreation hall, where President Paul Covel presented a most illuminating and stimulating talk on the life zones of California. He explained that life zones are determined largely by altitude, latitude and rainfall, subject to modifications by local conditions. California is unique in offering all the zones, from Lower Sonoran to Alpine Arctic. The same conditions are to be found at different altitude levels that a traveler going from Mexico to Canada would experience through latitude changes. He called to our attention the "zone indicators," which unmistakably identify each zone. Examples of these are the Giant Sequoia and western yellow pine (Transition), the beautiful Lewis mimulus (Canadian), and the Alpine willow (Alpine Arctic), sure sign of being above timberline. Paul's slides and map added greatly to our understanding and enjoyment of this interesting subject. Some of the most striking slides were of the mountain king-snake, with his bands of coral, black and white; the greatly sought-after Alpine primrose; and the mountain pride, a blaze of color against gray granite. At the Upper Sonoran level he caught the ring-tailed cat, perfectly posed for showing off his characteristic feature. Also in this zone are found the State flower and State bird.

Altogether this was a most enjoyable and profitable evening. Our thanks to the program chairman and to all who participated. We are indebted to the Sierra Club for many of the slides, which were from the collection of Mr. Weber.

A leaflet on "Life Zones of California" is available for five cents at the National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.

— HERMINE VAN GELDER

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society; from Berkeley, Mr. and Mrs. Alan M. Portis; from Oakland, Mrs. Don Harlow; from San Francisco, Mr. William J. Osterloh, Miss Elaine Brown Campbell, Mr. Edward X. Weber and Mrs. Christine Cofield; from Walnut Creek, Mr. Robert Earl Cornelius. The membership count is now 883.

— JEAN L. DUNHAM, M.D., *Membership Chairman*

CAMPERS BECOME MEMBERS

Life in Sugar Bowl Camp makes enthusiastic new Audubonites. From the first camp session, the following have joined our Society: Mr. & Mrs. A. Kirk Conragan of San Francisco; Mr. & Mrs. T. M. Atkinson and Edward J. Harman of Berkeley; Miss Vivian Shields of Oakland; Mrs. Edythe Kolkman and Mrs. Helen Blakely of San Leandro.

A few openings are still available for the last two camp sessions, August 4 - 17 and August 18 - 31. For information and reservations call the National Audubon Society office, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, TH 8-4042, or write direct to Audubon Camp, Norden, California.

ASSEMBLY BILL 2381

All good conservationists are rejoicing that Governor Knight has signed this bill, which adds hawks and owls to the list of birds protected in California.

SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL FUND

The Administrative Committee of the Fund will be very pleased to receive such suggestions and active assistance as members believe might lead to finding (establishing) a sanctuary. Those having such assistance to give, as well as those who wish to make a donation to the Fund, should communicate with Frank A. Scott, Chairman, 1508 La Loma Ave., Berkeley.

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

The membership voted, at the July picnic, to dispense with the August meeting, since so many members will be out of town. Happy vacation to the officers and especially to hard-working President Paul Covel!

SEPTEMBER GARDEN PARTY COMING UP

Dr. and Mrs. Eric Reynolds have again offered their lovely home for the Annual Garden Party, which is always a benefit for the Audubon Scholarship Fund. The date will be Thursday, September 12 — our usual meeting night. The Reynolds will provide the entertainment, which will be based on their recent trip to the Caribbean. Mrs. Vergil Muhler is chairman for the evening. More details in the September Gull.

— BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman*

SCREEN TOURS FOR SEASON 1957 - 58

Oct. 14 — BERT HARWELL ..... *Forgotten Country*
Nov. 21 — MURL DEUSING ..... *Canoe Country*
Jan. 17 — CLEVELAND P. GRANT ..... *Yukon Indian Summer*
Feb. 19 — OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR. ..... *Penguin Summer*
Apr. 15 — TELFORD H. WORK ..... *Monsoon Mosaic*

A few tickets are still available. If you haven't sent in your application and check, don't delay. The price is $3.50 for the series of five lectures. Checks should be mailed to Audubon Screen Tours, P. O. Box 103, Berkeley.. Tickets will be mailed in October.

— BETH SNYDER, *Chairman.*

FIELD TRIP FOR AUGUST

As of July 15, there are still 14 spaces available on the "Rowland R., Sr." for the FARALLON ISLAND trip on Saturday, August 24. As stated in the July "Gull," this will be the only boat chartered, so those desiring reservations should send a check for $8.00 (made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society) to Lee Stallcup, 6227 Buenaventura Avenue, Oakland 5. Leader, Harry Adamson, AT 3-2164.

The above trip is the only field trip for August. In September we will resume the two trips per month schedule.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman.*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.00 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way Berkeley 4, California — TH 8-4042